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RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 000594

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EUR/SCE FOR FOOKS

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [BK](#) [EUN](#)

SUBJECT: BOSNIA PIC MEETING: EU GENERALLY SUPPORTIVE OF US  
POSITION

REF: STATE 20031

Classified By: Political Officer Holly Schwendler for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (C) The EU Council Secretariat is in full agreement with reftel U.S. priorities for the upcoming PIC meeting, according to Bosnia officer Rasa Ostrauskaite. European Commission political officer for Bosnia, Jose Sanchez Alegre, voiced some skepticism regarding the value and necessity of OHR extension, particularly a 12-month extension, but said that the Commission will not stand in the way. In the context of supporting Bosnia on its European path, he emphasized encouraging BiH to take more ownership of the reform process, rather than have reforms imposed by the international community. Sanchez Alegre asserted that the inherent instability of the Balkans region amplifies any shortcomings in progress on reform, therefore heightening international concern, perhaps unnecessarily.

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